CITY OF BANNING
STAFF REPORT

TO:	**CITY COUNCIL**
FROM:	**Elizabeth Gibbs, City Manager**
PREPARED BY:	**Brandon Robinson, Electrical Engineering Supervisor** **Art Vela, Public Works Director**
MEETING DATE:	**May 12, 2026**
SUBJECT:	**Consideration of Resolution 2026-15, Approving and Adopting the City of Banning Electric Utility's Electric System Master Plan**

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2026-15

BACKGROUND:

The last comprehensive electrical system study the City had performed was a Ten-Year Electric System Master Plan (FY 2004-2014), which was completed by R.W. Beck in 2004. The City of Banning Electric Utility's (BEU's) overall electricity consumption has increased by approximately 10 percent over the past three years, and the City must ensure that BEU's electric transmission and distribution facilities are adequate in order to accommodate future load growth and address aging infrastructure.

The Electric System Master Plan ("ESMP") started with an initial system assessment conducted by Finley Engineering Company ("Finley") in late 2024. It focused on reviewing BEU's practices and performance, regulatory impacts, condition of the electric infrastructure, and assessing our system distribution model and planning criteria. After completing this initial assessment, Finley was tasked with performing a load forecast that considered multiple growth cases, a load flow analysis of the electric system in regards to overall system voltage profile and reliability, developing a capital improvement plan to address findings of the assessments and analysis, and addressing aging infrastructure.

JUSTIFICATION:

The findings from the Electric System Master Plan ("ESMP") outline several recommendations for system improvements. Some of the highlights include: rebalancing overloaded primary circuits in some residential areas, addressing low voltage conditions during system peak conditions, need for improvement of inspection and monitoring of aging infrastructure, and buildout of distribution and transmission infrastructure to increase redundancy.

The ESMP provides a high-level guide for planning, operating, and maintaining the electric distribution system for the BEU over the next two decades. The plan also identifies the long-term outlook of the electric utility, assesses its current conditions, and provides both a 5-year and a 15-year long-term capital improvement plan to address current and future challenges all designed to increase reliability, safety, and address future load growth. The long-term approach of the 20-year timeline will allow BEU to plan how to address these issues in a way as to allow for flexibility in budget while concurrently maintaining reliability in a steady fashion.

The capital improvement projects identified in the ESMP that have been recommended as result of this

study will guide the City toward ensuring adequate and reliable service to the BEU's customers and prepare for projected load growth. As the need for power delivery continues to evolve and BEU's electric distribution system continues to age, BEU will need to meet the challenges brought on from the influx of distributed energy resources such as solar photovoltaic and battery storage flowing into the grid and adapt to growing risks from extreme natural conditions such as wildfires, heatwaves, and windstorms.

City Strategic Plan: Approval of the ESMP aligns with Goal 4 - Maintain Effective and Efficient Services (3rd Tier Initiatives):
• 4q. Complete a Facility Condition Assessment
• 4r. Address Facility Deferred Maintenance Issues

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended actions to approve and adopt the ESMP as a planning document will have no immediate fiscal impact. The total estimated expenditures projected in the ESMP is approximately $71.5 million over the next 20 years.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 2026-15.docx
2. City of Banning '26-'45 ESMP Final.pdf